

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10-14, 18, 19, 21-29, and 31-33 are pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to incorporate the features of claim 10. Claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Entry and consideration of these amendments are earnestly requested inasmuch as they do not introduce new matter.

Claim Rejections

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

- A. Response to rejection of claims 1, 3, 7-8, 11-12, 14, 18, 21-22, 25 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Schaftingen et al. in view of Kagitani and Zuckerberg et al.

In response to the rejection of claims 1, 3, 7-8, 11-12, 14, 18, 21-22, 25 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication Number U.S. 2001/0015513 of Schaftingen et al. ("Schaftingen") in view of Japanese Patent Number 06218792 of Kagitani ("Kagitani") and U.S. Patent Number 5,047,196 of Zuckerberg et al. ("Zuckerberg"), Applicants have incorporated the features of claim 10 into claims 1 and 13. Inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated that claim 10 is allowable, Applicants believe the pending claims now stand in condition of allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. Response to rejection of claims 13, 23-24, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Schaftingen in view of Kagitani and Zuckerberg.

In response to the rejection of claims 13, 23-24, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Schaftingen in view of Kagitani and Zuckerberg, Applicants have incorporated the features of claim 10 into claim 13. Inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated that claim 10 is allowable, Applicants believe the pending claims now stand in condition of allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

C. Response to rejection of claims 2 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Schaftingen in view of Kagitani, Zuckerberg and Cancio et al.

In response to the rejection of claims 2 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Schaftingen in view of Kagitani, Zuckerberg and U.S. Patent Number 4,626,574 of Cancio et al. ("Cancio"), Applicants have incorporated the features of claim 10 into claims 1 and 13. Inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated that claim 10 is allowable, Applicants believe the pending claims now stand in condition of allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

D. Response to rejection of claims 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Schaftingen in view of Kagitani, Zuckerberg, and Hahn.

In response to the rejection of claims 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Schaftingen in view of Kagitani, Zuckerberg, and U.S. Patent Number 4,028,034 of Hahn ("Hahn"), Applicants have incorporated the features of claim 10 into claims 1 and 13. Inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated that claim 10 is allowable, Applicants believe the claims now stand in condition of allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner have questions or comments regarding this application or this Amendment, Applicant's attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss the case with the Examiner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge U.S. PTO Deposit Account 08-2336 in the amount of any fee required for consideration of this Amendment.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed August 19, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

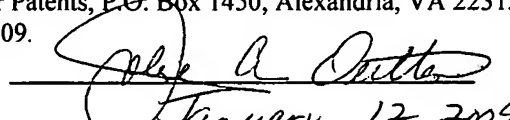


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage thereon with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 12, 2009.



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